Inflow of outdated foreign technology

1335. PROF. C LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether any steps are being taken to prevent inflow of outdated foreign technology in India and to ensure that only the latest technology is imported; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Proposals for import of technology are scrutinised by the competent technical/administrative authorities who take into account the standing of the collaborators, the status of the technology and the reasonableness of the terms.

Contract by NTPC to foreign company

1336. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleas ed to state:

(a) the name of the foreign company who has been awarded contract for supply, erection and commissioning of boiler and electrostatic precipitators for Farakka Super Thermal Power Project by NTPC;

(b) what are the details regarding the terms and conditions of the contract; and

(c) whether any other foreign companies were also in the field and offered tenders for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) M/s. An-saldo Componenti SPA, Italy, have been awarded, contract for supply and M/s. Ansaldo SPA for erection and commissioning of the two 500 MW boilers and electrostatic precipitators (ESPs) for the Farakka Super Thermal Power Project Stage-II, of the National Thermal Power Corporation.

(b) The awarded cost of contracts is DM 255. 146 million plus US $ 26. 795 million plus Rs. 317. 410 million. The Italian supply of. equipment and services are to be financed out of the. financing package offered by the Government of Italy.

(c) The contract was under bilateral credit.

Appeal in the Bhopal Gas case

1337. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be plea sed to state:

(a) whether any steps have been takes by Government to appeal, to the U. S. Court of Appeals for rehearing of the Bhopal Gas case by a full bench against the lower Court's ruling; and

(b) whether any negotiations are being carried on by Government of India with the Union Carbide Corporation for **out** of court settlement on a reasonable basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. How-ever, Government is examining the implications °f the judgement of the U. S. Court of Appeals and a decision on whether or not to move the U. S. Supreme Court in appeal will be taken after fully considering all the implications.

(b) At present no such negotiations are being carried on with the Union Carbide Corporation.

Financial malpractices against top officiala of ONGC

1338. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAK RAVARTY; Will the Minister of PET ROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of top officials of ONGC at Sibsagar are involved in financial malpractices;